

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-07 NSCE-00 EUR-10

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OASD/ISA:COL SKOGERBOE

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R 242107Z MAY 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
INFO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 109831

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PINS
SUBJECT: FRENCH HINTS AT U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN NIGER COUP
REFERENCE: ABIDJAN 4043

1. APPRECIATE REPORT REFTEL OF MOST RECENT FRENCH SUSPICIONS DIRECTED AT U.S. ACTIVITIES IN THEIR FORMER COLONIES. AS ADDRESSEES KNOW THIS IS NOT UNIQUE CASE, AND CERTAIN FRENCH ELEMENTS ARE HIGHLY SUSPICIOUS OF U.S. INTENTIONS, PARTICULARLY OF ANY SORT OF U.S. MILITARY ATTENTION TO THEIR FORMER PRESERVE.

2. WE ARE CONVINCED ON BASIS OF REFTEL THAT NO BLAME CAN BE ATTACHED TO ANY U.S. ELEMENT AND THAT GIVEN THE WAY
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NIGER COUP WAS PULLED OFF SUCH SUSPICIONS ON THE PART

OF THE FRENCH WERE UNAVOIDABLE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY DENIAL WE MIGHT MAKE IN ANY WAY TO THE FRENCH WOULD BE HELPFUL, UNLESS MATTER GROWS BEYOND ITS PRESENT PROPORTIONS.

3. WE REMAIN, OF COURSE, MORE CONCERNED WITH WHAT THE AFRICANS BELIEVE THAN WHAT CERTAIN FRENCH DO. WOULD, THEREFORE, APPRECIATE FURTHER REPORTING ON ANY INDICATIONS THAT FRENCH-SPONSORED RUMOR IS SPREADING TO THESE QUARTERS AND WOULD WELCOME SUGGESTIONS FOR EFFECTIVE CORRECTIVE ACTION IF SUCH IS THE CASE. RUSH

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